

Congress passed his legislation establishing the Congressional Award Program, which is privately funded and is the only volunteer award given in the name of Congress. Wyoming is proud to have the most active participation in that program.

Upon his retirement from Congress, Senator Wallop founded Frontiers of Freedom, a conservative think tank promoting freedom, fewer Federal regulations, and smaller government.

He was a man of supreme integrity, incredible intellect and a quick wit, humble to a fault and exceedingly kind. I am told he always had time to ask a Capitol Hill elevator operator or police officer about their family on his way to a vote. He had a tremendously devoted staff, many of whom worked for him for the full 18 years of his tenure in the Senate.

Finally, Malcolm Wallop was the descendant of an entrepreneurial pioneer family who had roots in Wyoming and the British Isles as well. Senator Wallop's grandfather served not only in England's Parliament but the Wyoming Legislature. The first polo field in the United States was built on the Wallop family ranch at Big Horn, Wyoming.

Senator Wallop was a man blessed with four wonderful children, many grandchildren, and his wife, Isabel. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. In their time of sadness, let them be comforted in the knowledge that Wyoming stands strong today because of Senator Wallop's untiring love of, and commitment to, our great State.

GOOD RIDDANCE TO "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a truly historic day in our country's struggle for equal rights for all people. Leaders of the United States Army sent a notice to soldiers serving around the globe that simply said the following: "Today marks the end of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' The law is repealed. From this day forward, gay and lesbian soldiers may serve in our Army with the dignity and respect they deserve. Our rules, regulations, and politics will apply uniformly without regard to sexual orientation, which is a personal and private matter."

Mr. Speaker, 18 years after this hideous policy was first implemented, it is now gone. And the thousands of soldiers who were shamefully discharged under Don't Ask, Don't Tell may apply for reenlistment.

To the men and women whose service and sacrifice have made us so proud, we say, as of yesterday: "You no longer have to live a lie." To them, we say: "You no longer have to choose between your personhood and your patriotism." To them, who have had the courage to do right by America, we now say:

"Your Nation now has the courage to do what is right by you."

Air Force Lieutenant Josh Seefried, a leader among gay and lesbian servicemembers, describes the oppressive nature of this policy in this way. He said: "It consumes your thought process, it consumes your future, because of the fear of getting caught."

Mr. Speaker, it is incomprehensible to me that anyone—in particular, brave, selfless members of our military—should live any day in fear of "getting caught." This step is hugely welcomed, and it is long overdue.

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"Don't ask, don't tell" was opposed by an overwhelming majority of Americans because it violated the values we claim to stand for as a Nation. It was not only tearing at our moral fabric; it was undermining our military readiness and national security as well. At a time when we're asking so much of our servicemembers, putting them on the front lines of two wars, we owe them, at the very least, and we have finally brought them the dignity of a discrimination-free workplace.

I salute President Obama, and I salute our military brass for their leadership in reversing this injustice. I salute the Members of Congress, Democrat and Republican, who voted for the repeal. And of course we all owe a debt of gratitude to those who serve with honor and integrity, those who defended American rights and freedoms even when America wouldn't afford them the same rights and freedoms.

So, Mr. Speaker, now there will be no sanctioned bigotry or homophobia in the Armed Forces of the greatest country on Earth. Our military will accept everyone who demonstrates their fitness to serve. Their sexuality will be irrelevant. They may be as open about it or as discreet about it as they choose.

Good riddance to "don't ask, don't tell." Our country will be stronger, safer, and fairer without it. And while we support our troops by eliminating this wrong-minded policy, let's take the next step and support all of our troops, regardless of their sexual orientation, by bringing them home from Iraq and Afghanistan.

PUERTO RICO INVESTMENT PROMOTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, the coming months represent a defining moment for our Nation. Responsible leaders from both political parties understand that we must come together on behalf of the American people to create jobs for millions of unemployed workers and to put our Nation on the path to fiscal stability.

President Obama has transmitted the American Jobs Act to Congress, and I

hope its key components will be enacted into law. The supercommittee has begun its work of proposing responsible ways to grow our economy while reducing our deficits. The work that lies ahead will not be easy, but it must be done.

With this as backdrop, I rise this morning to discuss the Puerto Rico Investment Promotion Act, which I will introduce tomorrow. The bill is designed to attract investment to Puerto Rico and to create jobs on the island, where the unemployment rate over the last decade has consistently stood six to eight percentage points above the national average. At the same time, the bill seeks to generate new revenue for the Federal Government and to encourage job-creating investment in the 50 States, where unemployment now exceeds 9 percent.

This bill is endorsed by Puerto Rico's Governor, Luis Fortuno, the leaders of Puerto Rico's two main political parties, and the island's business community.

At the outset, it is important to explain why I'm promoting legislation of this sort. Like the States, the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico faces serious economic challenges. However, the economic problems of Puerto Rico have proven to be structural and chronic, not cyclical and temporary.

I believe that Puerto Rico's economy will never unleash its tremendous potential under its current political status. And I support statehood for the island in part because history shows that every territory that joins the union experiences substantial increases in its economic activity and standard of living. However, until a majority of Puerto Rico's people express a desire for statehood and Congress welcomes the island as a full member of the American family, it is incumbent upon me to take all reasonable steps to strengthen the island's economy within the severe constraints imposed by the current territorial status.

My aspiration for Puerto Rico is that it will enjoy the political, social, and economic equality that only statehood offers; and I look forward to the day when it will no longer be necessary for Puerto Rico's leaders to petition the U.S. Congress for customized, island-specific legislation to encourage job-creating investment, and to compensate—at least somewhat—for the countless ways in which our political status does damage to our people. But until that day arrives, we must be as pragmatic about the present as we are hopeful about the future.

To explain the bill, a little background is in order. Currently, nearly all of the large U.S. firms that conduct business in Puerto Rico are organized as controlled foreign corporations, CFCs. A CFC's earnings are not subject to any Federal taxation until they're distributed, usually in the form of a dividend, to its U.S. parent, a process known as repatriation. CFCs in Puerto Rico and in foreign countries have little incentive to repatriate because